

# Impact Evaluation of Policy Oriented Research

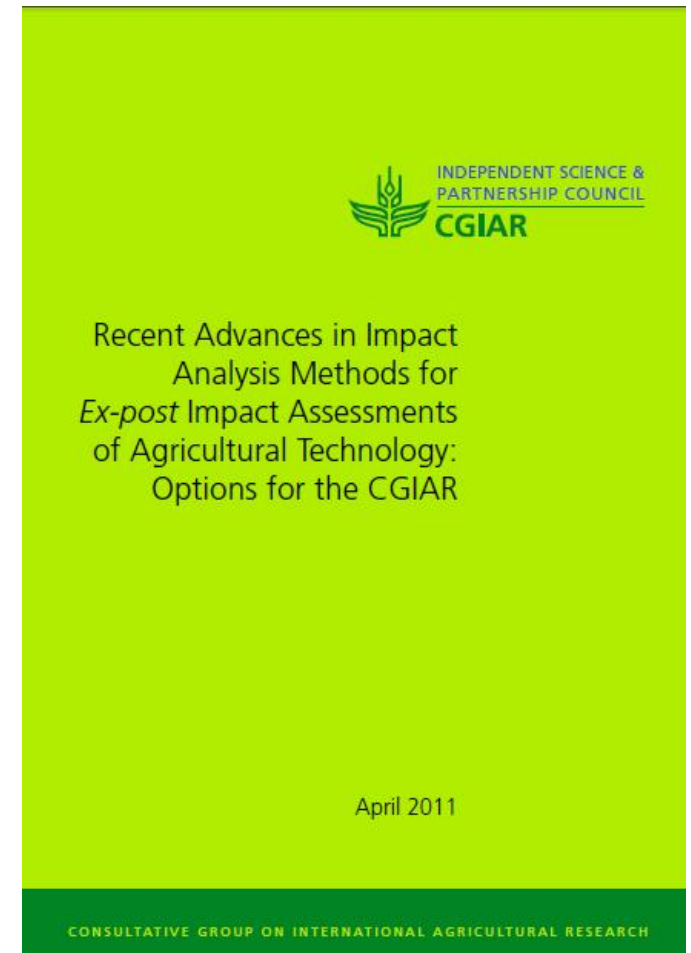
## Why should CIAT engage with it now (and how to do that)





## Background

- Increased pressure to demonstrate impact
- 2011 CGIAR commissioned review  
(de Janvry Dustan Sadoulet 2011)
  - Focused on agriculture innovation
  - At farm-gate level (“microeconomic impact analysis”)
  - LT (ex-post) aggregated effect of technology
  - “policy impact”: none
- CGIAR increasingly engaging in Policy Oriented Research (POR)
  - IFPRI main agenda!
  - CIFOR, ICRAF, etc.
  - CRPs (e.g. PIM, CCAFS)
  - DAPA !!!!

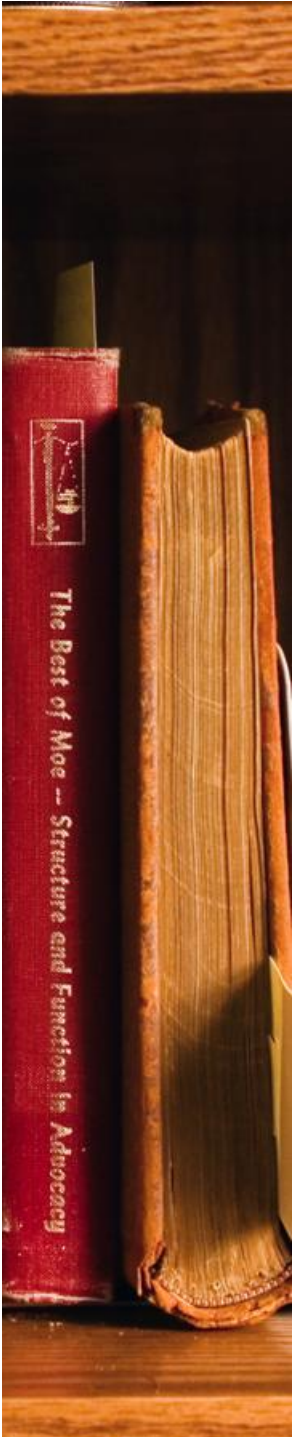




## Objective

- What do we know about assessing the impact of POR (PORIA)?
  - Review of recent discussion (within the CGIAR)
  - Explore (beyond the CGIAR)
- Provide some basic technical 'tips'
- Advocate for a more systematic engagement of CIAT in PORIA





## Policy Oriented Research

“research that aims (...) at affecting choices made by governments or other institutions (...) or other activities that generate benefits and costs for people who are affected by those governments or institutions”

Walker et al. (2010, p.1454)

*Research that aims at influencing decision-makers*

## Policy Oriented Research

- Growing prevalence of POR in the CGIAR

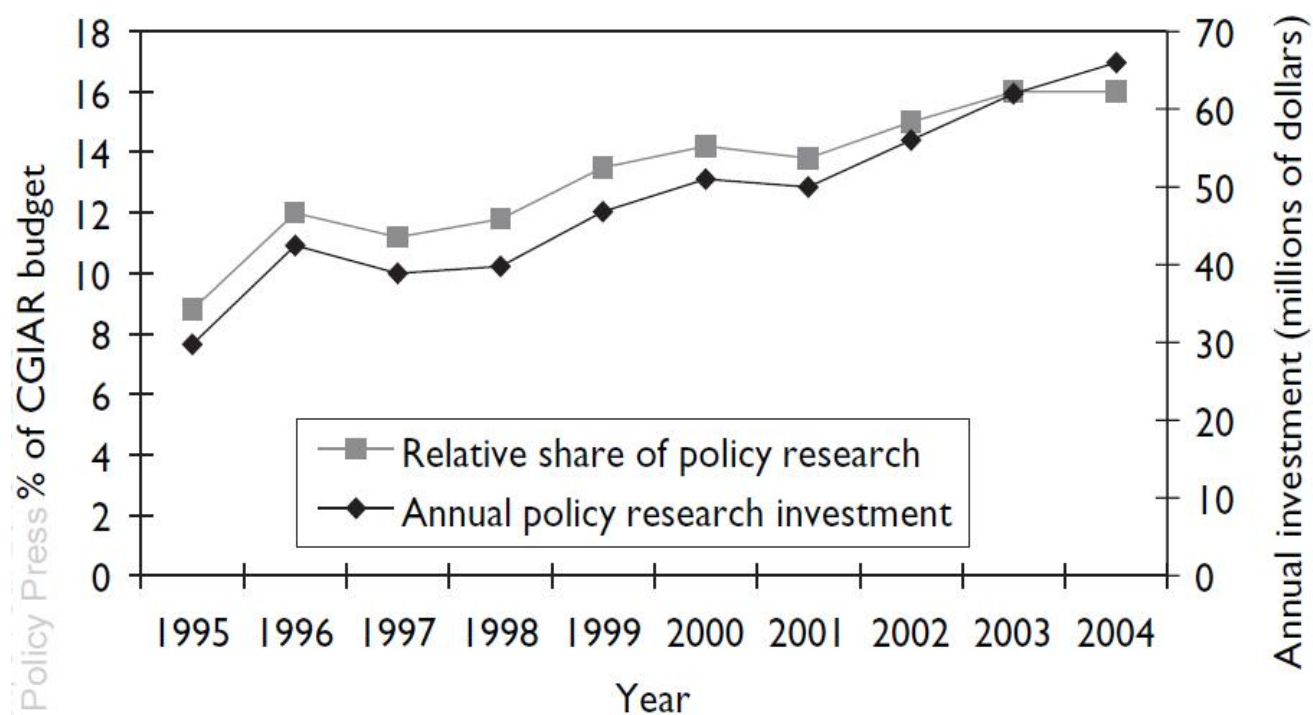


Fig.1 Relative and absolute investment of the CGIAR in POR activities (in 2004 US\$)  
(Source: Raitzer and Ryan 2008, their Fig.1 p.8)

# Impact Evaluation of Policy Oriented Research so far



- Very little..
  - CGIAR Science Council, 2006 - Raitzer and Ryan 2008
    - 24 projects with POR objectives
    - only 3 conducted a rigorous assessment
  - Dec 2014 Workshop (SPIA)
  - Renkow and Byerlee (2014)
    - 56 policy outcomes attributable to the CG
    - only 1 was fully documented/assessed
  - CIAT?
    - One out of the 56



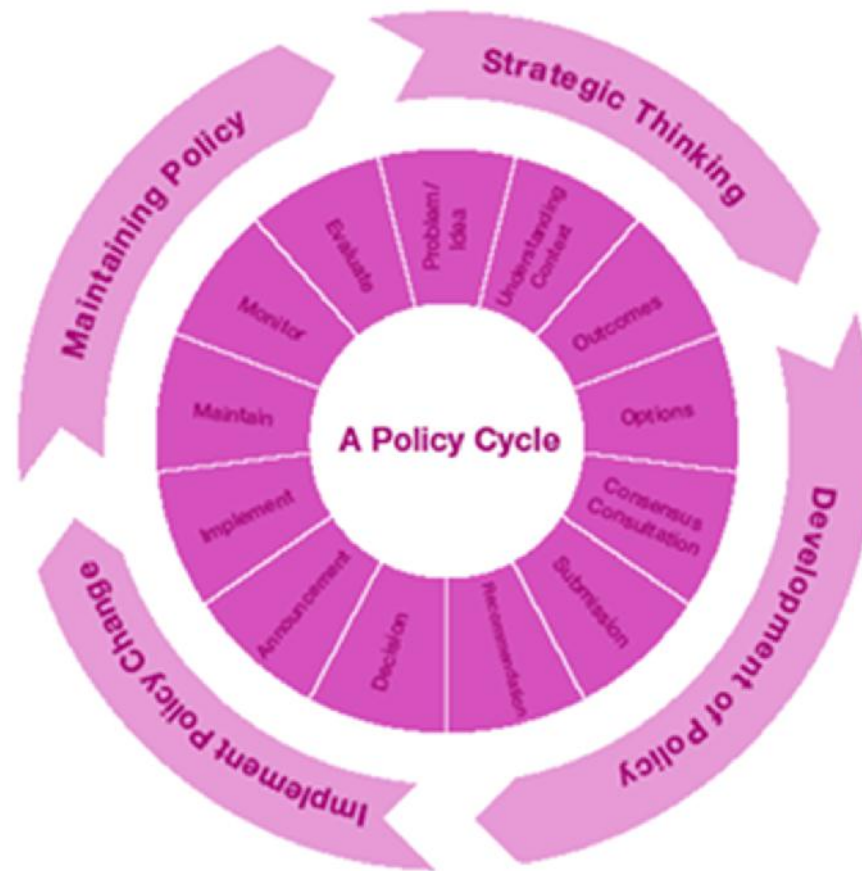
# The challenge of assessing the Impact of POR

- “almost impossible” (Jones 2011, p.3)
- “heroic enterprise” (Raitzer and Ryan ,2008, p.18)
- A lack of well-established methodologies
  - the ‘messy’ world of policy
  - attribution challenge
  - difficulty to construct counterfactuals



## Revisiting the policy process and POR

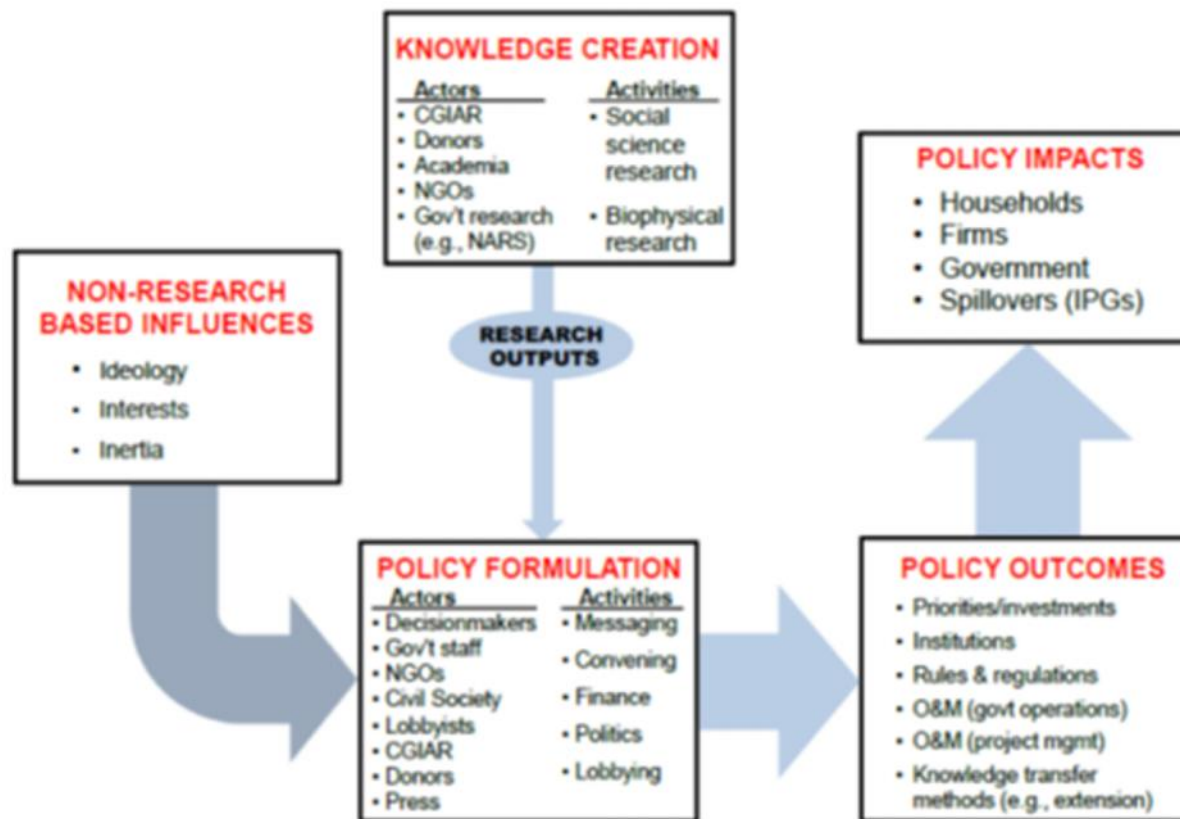
- The misleading 'pathway' : policy process is not a linear one
  - policy as a circular continuous process





# Revisiting the policy process and POR

- Being realistic about the myth of evidence-based decision
  - Recognizing the wider context influencing policy-makers



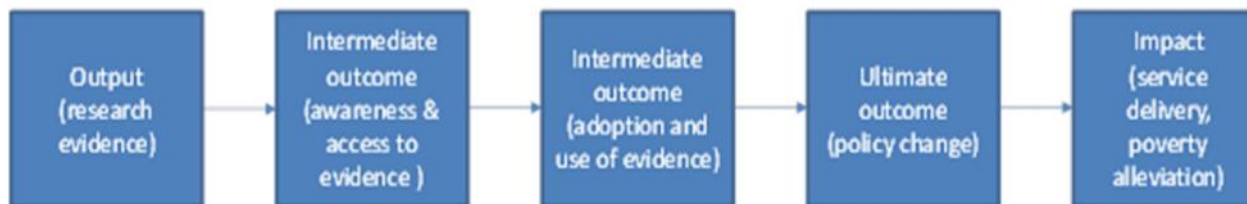
Source: Renkow and Byerlee 2014

# Revisiting the policy process and POR

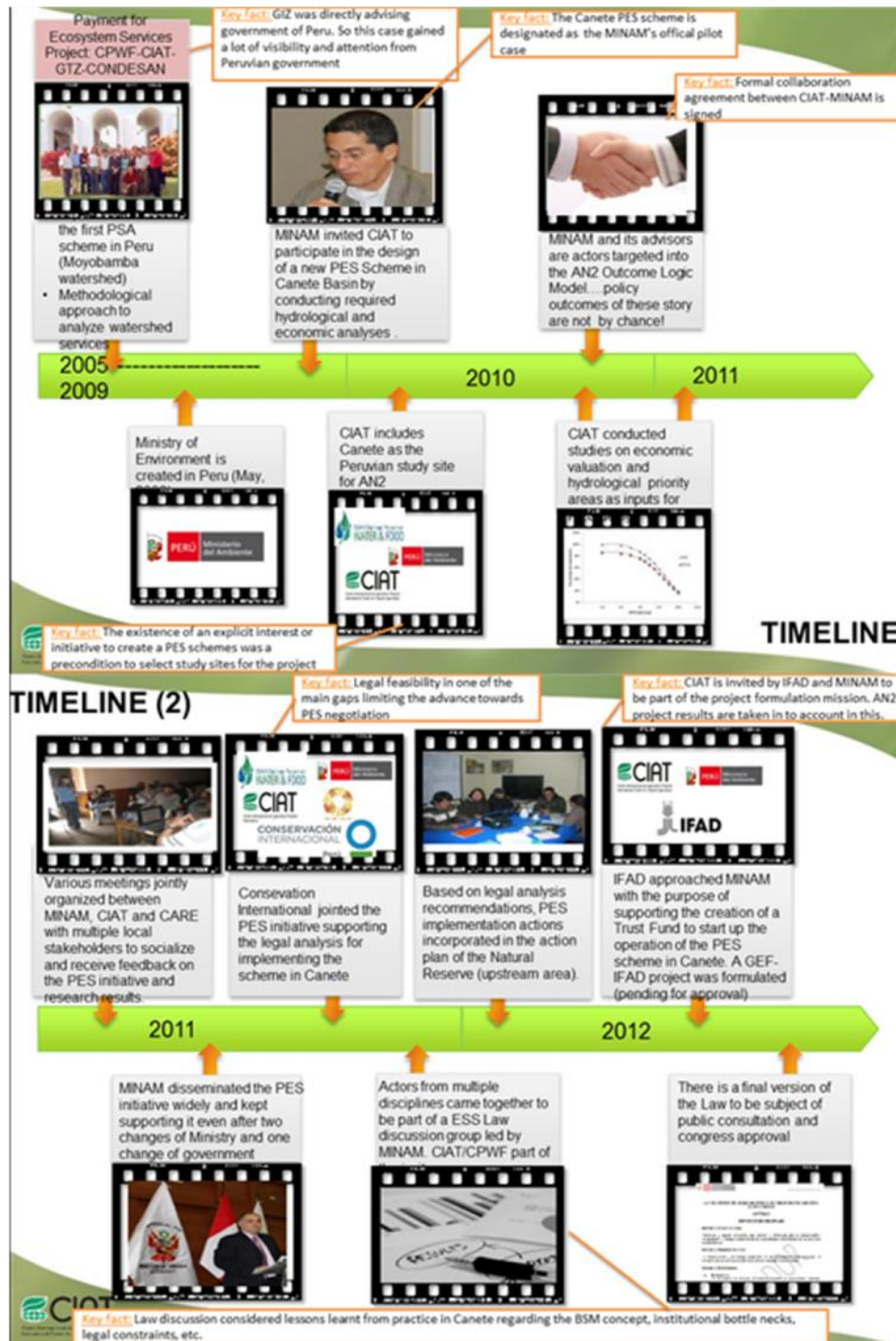
- The trick: breaking down outcomes

diffusion -> influence -> change

'traditional' causal pathway for a POR project



alternative POR causal pathway



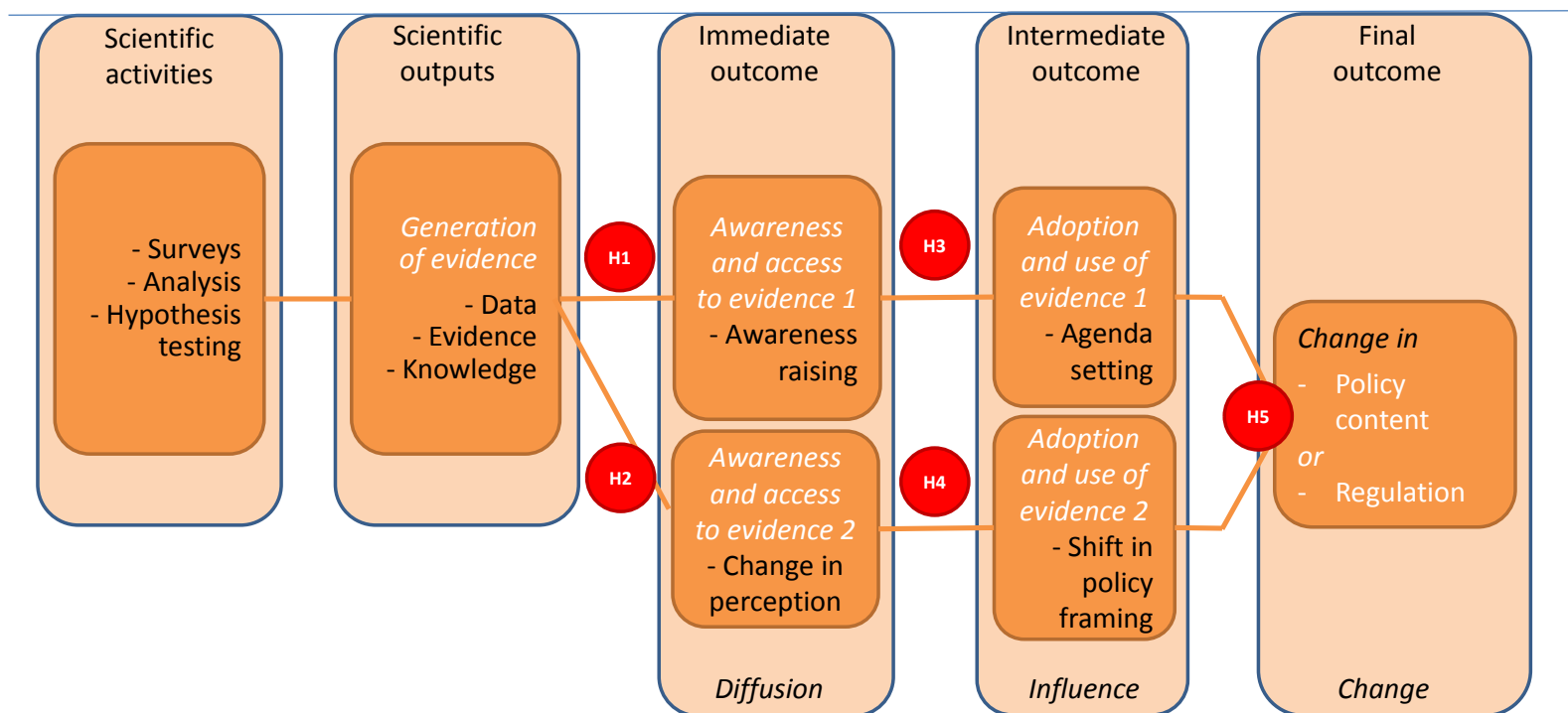
## Peruvian ecosystem services law

- “unpredictable” nature of the pathway
- ‘modest’ contribution of the evidence-based element
  - champion
  - right moment
  - reputation
  - wider context
  - etc.
- importance of breaking down the chain of events
  - preliminary outcomes
  - intermediary
  - final outcomes
- Not a ‘proper’ PORIA
  - Descriptive rather than analytic



## Emerging approaches to assess (rigorously) POR

- Key component: theory of change (ToC)
  - “set of assumptions that explain both the steps that lead to a longer term goal and the connections between these events and the outcomes of an intervention or programme”
- Hypotheses/assumptions of the ToC
  - Different from the hypothesis in LogFrame (external conditions)
  - What is needed to happen between the steps of the Toc (internal processes)
- Theory-based impact evaluation
  - Using the ToC of a programme to evaluation its ‘impact’



- H1** Hypothesis 1 : tested through bibliometric analysis
- H4** Hypothesis 4 : tested through Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) survey
- H2** Hypothesis 2 : tested through Key informant Interviews (KII)
- H5** Hypothesis 5 : tested through Contribution Analysis (CA)
- H3** Hypothesis 3 : tested through regression discontinuity

Fig.4 Graphical representation of a theory-based impact evaluation



## Conclusion and way forward

- “almost impossible” (Jones 2011, p.3)
  - “heroic enterprise” (Reitzer and Ryan (2008, p.18))
- 
- It is possible to put in place some basic elements of PORIA
    - dissemination -> influence -> change
  - Evidence-based is only part of the whole policy change process
    - Critical to be aware and ideally to document the external context (contribution analysis)
  - CIAT to become one of the CGIAR leading centers in terms of PORIA?



